



December 2024

Newsletter 7 – 6.12.24

SECTION 1: ATTENDANCE

WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Good attendance at school is essential for children to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances.
- Nurseries and first schools play a vital role in embedding good attendance habits.
- Even at first school, children with the highest attainment have higher rates of attendance compared to those with the lowest attainment.
- National data shows us that children not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths also had lower attendance.
- For the most vulnerable pupils, regular attendance is also an important protective factor and the best opportunity for needs to be identified and support provided. Research has shown there are clear links between regular absence from school and harm for children.

Improving school attendance is everyone's business. Please support us in promoting the benefits of good attendance with your child - not only for their education but, also, to support their wellbeing and future life chances. Thank you.

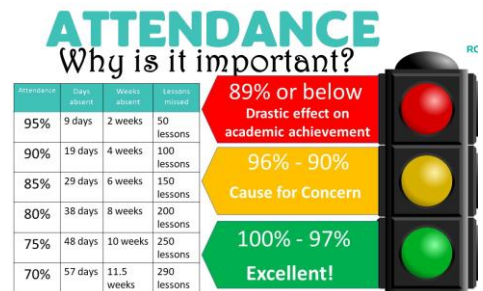
WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

	Whole School Attendance (excluding Nursery)	Highest class attendance!	Second place	Third place
Wb 25.11.24	95%	Year 3 (100%)	Year 2 (99%)	Nursery (97%)
Wb 2.12.24	95%	Year 3 (100%)	Nursery (99.5%)	Year 2 (96%)

Did you know ...?

- 95% attendance = two weeks absence
- 90% attendance = 4 weeks absence
- 85% attendance = 6 weeks absence
- 80% attendance = more than half a term of absence
- 75% attendance = more than 9 weeks of absence

Please remember that I am unable to authorise absences during term time for family holidays. We would be grateful if parents/carers could also inform grandparents, family and friends, who may be looking to book birthday or Christmas trips away, that these do not fall under exceptional circumstances and will not be authorised.



If you need any support regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us as we can help you access support from the school nurse, attendance officer or other appropriate services.

We recognise that children may have a legitimate reason to be absent from school, and we are also aware that some families face difficulties which may impact on their child's education, therefore, the traffic light system has been put in place to support families by highlighting concerns at an early stage.



We hope that you will continue to support our school by promoting school attendance and by informing us if you feel there are any issues that are preventing your child from attending school regularly.

If you would like to discuss this further, please get in touch (grant.short@clennelleducationsolutions.org).

MINUTES MISSED

During this fortnight, 1 hour 40 minutes of learning time have been missed in school due to lateness. Please try to arrive on time at school, between 8:35am – 8:45am. Thank you. Our first lesson of the day is reading so children arriving late miss vital learning.



For children who arrive late, more than once in a week, we run a Friday lunchtime catch-up session with class teachers.

PUPIL ABSENCES

	Whole School absence (excluding Nursery)	Absence caused by holidays	Other absences
Wb 25.11.24	5%	1.5%	3.5%
Wb 2.12.24	5%	1%	4%

SECTION 2: SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS!



SCHOOL VALUES

As you know, our school values are love and determination, based on the Bible passage: Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:13-14). The following children have been nominated by staff and/or peers for showing these values in school. Well done everyone!



	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Staff
Demonstrating Love	Otis Muhammad	Hadi Molly	Ollie S Archie	Amaya Sacha	Grace Sienna	Abbie Georgie	Mrs Gyle Miss Bowers
Demonstrating Determination	Amarleia Lucas	Jude Suleman	Billie Leo	John Henry	George F Elvis	Elif Jacob D	Miss Halliday Mrs Palmer

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know all their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12 and Year 4 children undertake their statutory Multiplication Tables Check in the summer term.



The following children have engaged highly with TTRS in the past fortnight. Well done everyone!

	Children Need to Learn	Highest engagement this fortnight	Highest accuracy this fortnight
Year 2	x 2, x 5, x 10 (and corresponding division facts)	Mika Musa Lyla	Mika Benjamin Musa
Year 3	x 2, x 5, x 10, x 3, x 4, x 8 (and corresponding division facts)	Harmony Thanuja Max Co	Thanuja Elvis Max Cr
Year 4	All tables to 12 x 12 (and corresponding division facts)	Theo Jacob D Harry	Theo Jacob D Harry

Current rank of ARFS among nearby schools	25	Mean studio speed (seconds per question)	4.7
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HANDWRITING HEROES

As a school, we continue to have a real drive to improve handwriting, presentation of work and spelling. Each week, class teachers will choose someone who has worked hard to improve their presentation or who consistently demonstrates exemplary standards of presentation. Well done and thank you to the following children:



Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Molly Jad	Nyah Yashika	Ruby Isla	Rahaf Ivy	George Danny

SECTION 3: SOCIAL ACTION



GREEN TEAM

Litter picking was tricky last week in the hard frost! Lots of items were stuck to the ground but we still managed to fill an entire bin bag! Well done Green Team! We will resume litter picking duties in the spring term when the weather will hopefully be kinder and all the festive fun is complete!



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week, School Council have designed and made Christmas Cards to send to friends of our school to bring a little festive cheer. Well done School Council!

LIBRARY CHAMPIONS

Lydia, Razan and Livie have been continuing to work hard sorting the new library books. They are doing a fantastic job.



PLAY LEADERS

The recent wintry weather has not stopped play at Archbishop Runcie First School! Our determined Play Leaders have been rallying the children to take part in many cross-class activities and games this week and have not allowed the muddy field to get them down!

YOUNG LEADERS

This week, our young leaders have been looking at leadership around our local area and continuing our drive for action within our local community. We have discussed local government and the children have decided that they would like to write a letter to our local MP to open a discussion around rubbish within play parks in the city. We are going to write the letter as a group and, hopefully, will have a response soon!





WORSHIP COUNCIL

Mrs Palmer and Worship Council are in the process of arranging our Blessing of the Crib Service at St Nicholas' Church (next to South Gosforth Metro Station) on Friday 20th December. Parents, carers, family and friends are all warmly invited to join us.

CHARITABLE GIVING

A reminder that next Friday (13th December), children and staff are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper and donate to Save the Children. Donations can be made via ParentMail. Thank you in advance.



SECTION 4: SCHOOL NEWS!

PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPERS



PRE-LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE

There is a growing collection of pre-loved jumpers and tops in the main entrance to school, which are available to buy/swap. We would be grateful of any further donations to the office, please. Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL

If anyone has an unwanted 5 or 6 ft artificial Christmas tree that they would be willing to donate to school, please let Mrs Coates know. Ideally, we are looking for a traditional green one. Thank you.

CURRICULUM

As you know, we have split the curriculum for Years 1 – 4 into 6 equal blocks of teaching time rather than adhering to the traditional half terms which are governed by school holidays as spring term tends to be a short one and we do not want our curriculum to be "squeezed". This means children will begin their new learning topics next Monday.



Next week, you will all receive an overview of what your child will be learning in school over the next 6 weeks (2 weeks before and 4 weeks after the Christmas holidays). This includes how you can support at home. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact class teachers directly. Thank you.



EYFS

I'm really proud to say that our school was selected by the Local Authority to host this term's EYFS staff development session with Mrs Francis leading a training session, for colleagues from schools across the city, on teaching Maths in EYFS. It is fantastic to have the work of our EYFS team recognised and celebrated – well done Team Early Years!

STAY & PLAY

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Nursery and Reception's Festive Stay & Play sessions this week. We have had some fabulous feedback and the children loved welcoming their special adults into their classrooms.



CHRISTMAS

Next week, children will be performing their nativities to various audiences. Each class will have the opportunity to watch the other performances so they will see their siblings and friends from other classes performing. Tickets for performances are for adults and older siblings who will each need their own ticket if they wish to attend.

Hopefully by now, each family has their two allocated tickets for the performance(s) of their choice. Mrs Coates has sent a reminder to families who have not yet booked tickets. We are now able to offer remaining tickets to families. We have a small number of tickets remaining for the following performances:

- EYFS - Thursday 12th December at 1:30pm
- KS1 – Wednesday 11th December at 5:00pm
Friday 13th at 1:30pm
- KS2 – All performances



Please contact Mrs Coates directly to reserve additional tickets. Please note that hall capacity is limited due to fire regulations so we will only be able to admit those who have booked. Thank you for your understanding.

Parents and carers will be able to take photographs during the performances but these must only be used for personal use and **must not be shared on social media**. Thank you for your co-operation.

For children who have been asked to bring in a costume, please do this as soon as possible. Thank you.



CLASS PARTIES

Christmas parties are taking place in the final week of term. Please send children to school in party wear that is appropriate for school (flat shoes - no open toes, appropriate length skirts/shorts and no midriiffs on show!). Children will still be taking part in curriculum activities in the morning and therefore need to be suitably dressed and children should not wear jewellery. Thank you. Unfortunately, we have not been able to use ParentMail for parents and carers to sign up to bring party foods so we will revert to good-old-fashioned paper lists on classroom doors! We would be grateful if each child could bring a small contribution to share, please. For those parents who are not on the school yard at drop off/pick up, please email Mrs Coates and she can sign you up for a food contribution. Thank you.

CLASS THEATRE TRIPS



Nursery and Reception children have attended Stories with Santa at Gosforth Civic Theatre today and Years 1 – 4 have a visit to The Tyne Theatre to see Snow White coming up. Please ensure permission has been given on ParentMail.



Thank you to all those parents and carers who have offered to help and to everyone who has made a contribution. Enrichment activities, such as this, would not be able to go ahead without your donations so we are really grateful.

CLASS FAMILY DAY



On Thursday 19th December, each class will have a traditional class “family” Christmas Day with staff and peers. This will include Christmas lunch (with crackers!), board games and/or a film (as well as a special surprise!). We have, once again, asked Sean Elliot (photographer) to take pictures of each child, which will be available to buy at the Carol

Service on the final day of term. Children will need wellies, waterproofs, hats and gloves for this day, please. Please feel free to wear Christmas jumpers/hats etc too. Children can bring a named board/card game to play. Please do not send anything expensive or with too many small (or noisy!) parts. Thank you.

The deadline for ordering a Christmas Lunch has now passed.



E-SAFETY – SECOND HAND DEVICES

Often children receive second-hand devices at this time of year. This is fantastic in terms of cost saving and recycling, however, it is really important that these device’s settings are updated to suit new users. Internet Matters have some really useful guidance for parents and carers [here](#). Happy reading!

CHURCH LINKS

We are very proud to announce that Rosa has won the All Saints' Christmas card competition for All Saints' Church and has had 5000 copies of her design printed and distributed! Well done Rosa!



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Year 3 led worship, last Friday, and talked to us about the importance of the colour purple and the symbolism of some traditions during the season of Advent. This week, we have talked about our hopes linked to the lighting of the first candle in the advent wreath. Our children never fail to impress me with their selfless, thoughtful and caring responses.

CAKE SALE

Nursery & Reception will be hosting their class cake sale, after school, on Thursday 24th January. All donations must have ingredients clearly labelled please. Please remember to bring cash when you collect children at 3:15pm if you wish to make a purchase. Thank you.



NURSERY – JANUARY INTAKE

A reminder for all parents/carers of children who have just turned 3 years old – we have a January and an April intake for Nursery children who have just turned 3. This means they will benefit from a longer period of Nursery provision (the remainder of this school year and all of next school year) before moving to Reception. The educational and social benefits of this are huge and we have some real success stories in our school.

As part of our school vision to serve all families, we now offer funded 30 hour places for children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. If you have any questions or are interested in applying for a place, please contact Mrs Coates. Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING

Mrs Massey, Mrs Francis and Mrs Ellwood are our school's Designated Safeguarding Leaders (DSL). Mr Brown is DSL for Wraparound care.



Children are regularly reminded who they can talk to if they are worried about something in school.

If you have concerns about a child, please contact one of us. If it is an emergency and a child is in immediate danger, please call the police. Members of the public can also report concerns to Children's Social Care directly. If you have a concern about a child please contact one of the following:

- Initial Response Service – 0191 277 2500
- Northumbria Police – 101 (in an emergency always dial 999)
- NSPCC Helpline – 0808 800 5000

There is also a secure online referral form available for you to explain your concern, if you are a member of the public. <https://nccportal.newcastle.gov.uk/forms/referral/public>

For more information, you can read our Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on our school website.

With my very best wishes,

Kate Massey

Headteacher

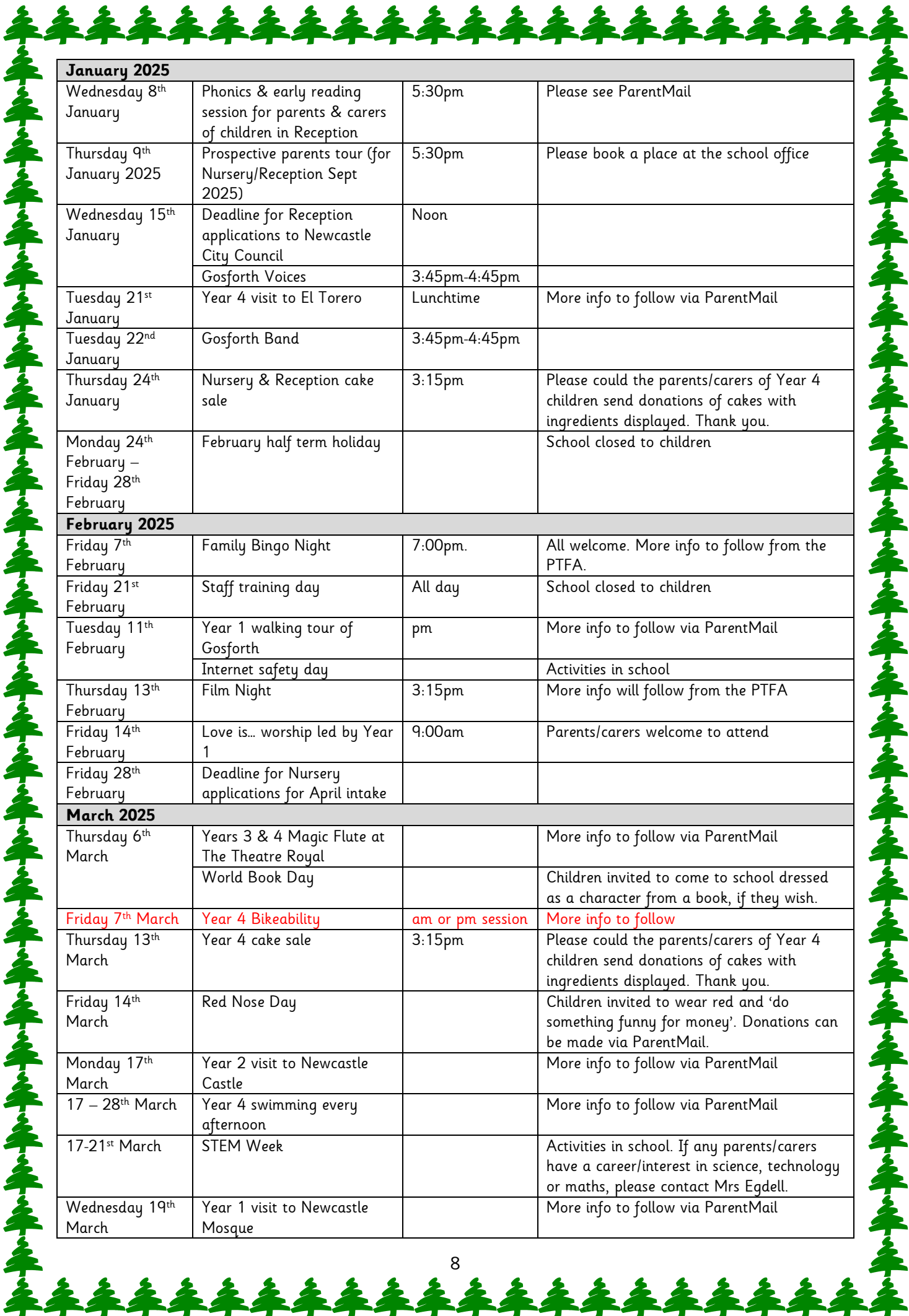




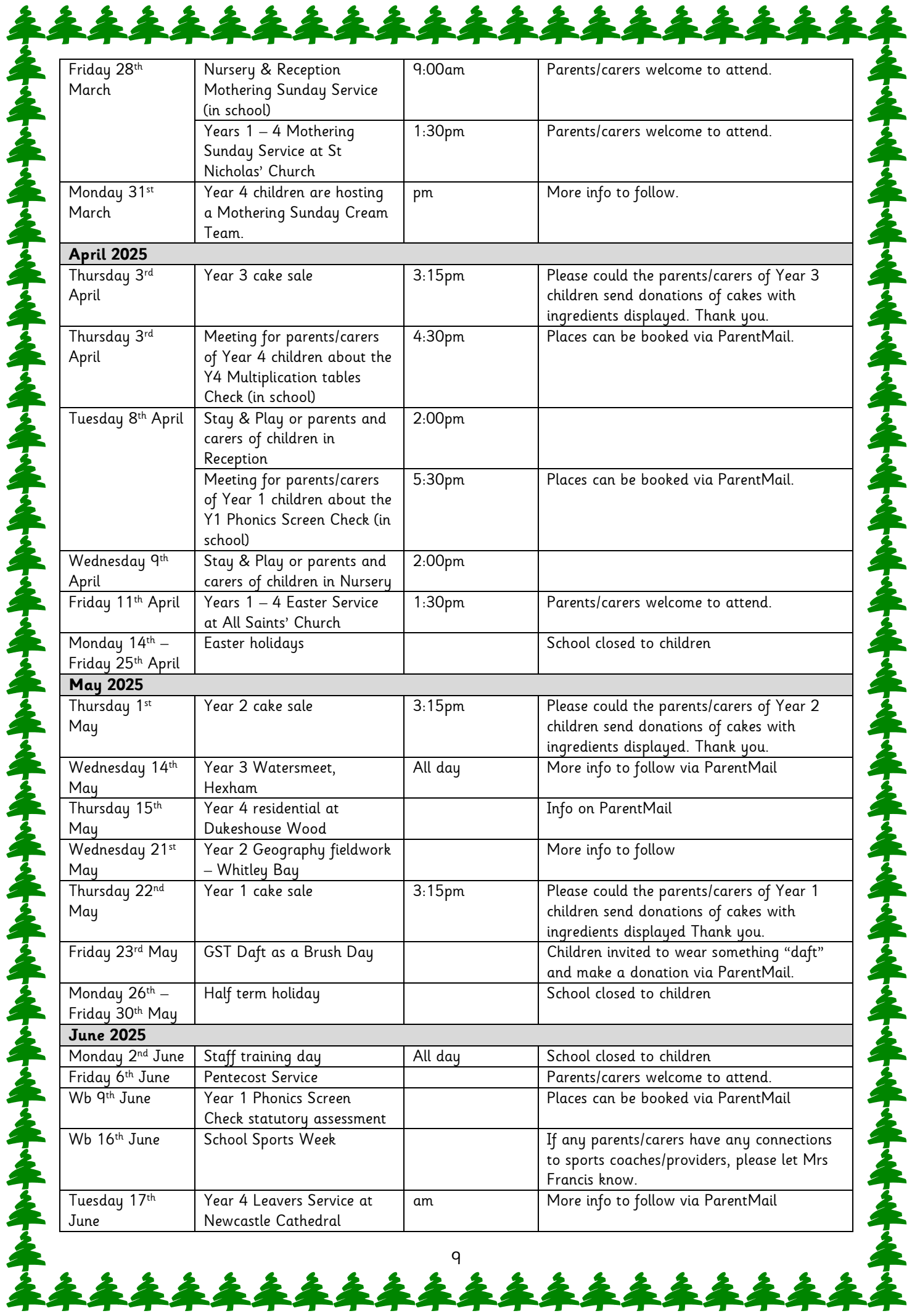
DIARY DATES

New dates are in red, for your information

Monday 9 th December	Year 3 visit to Durham Oriental Museum	All day	Please see ParentMail
Wednesday 11 th December	Nursery & Rec Nativity (am) Years 3 & Year 4 Nativity (pm) Years 1 & Year 2 Nativity & Tombola (evening)	9:30am FULL 1:30pm 5:00pm	Please see info in Newsletter 5
Thursday 12 th December	Years 1 & Year 2 Nativity (am) Nursery & Rec Nativity (pm) Years 3 & Year 4 Nativity & tombola (evening)	9:30am FULL 1:30pm 5:00pm	
Friday 13 th December	Years 3 & Year 4 Nativity (am) Years 1 & Year 2 Nativity (pm)	9:30am 1:30pm	
Monday 16 th December	Year 1 visit to All Saints' Church Years 3 & 4 Christmas party	10:00am pm	Please see ParentMail Please see lists on classroom doors and sign up to bring food to share. Thank you.
Tuesday 17 th December	Years 3 & 4 visit to Tyne Theatre Years 1 & 2 Christmas party	am pm	Please see ParentMail Please see lists on classroom doors and sign up to bring food to share. Thank you.
Wednesday 18 th December	Years 1 & 2 visit to Tyne Theatre Nursery & Reception party	am pm	Please see ParentMail Please see lists on classroom doors and sign up to bring food to share. Thank you.
Thursday 19 th December	ARFS Family Day (including Christmas lunch)	All day	Children invited to wear festive attire! Please bring waterproofs, wellies, hats and gloves as well as a board or card game.
Friday 20 th December	Children invited to wear Christmas jumpers Year 1 – 4 Carol Service at St Nicholas' Church	 pm	Just for fun – no donations required Parents and carers welcome to attend. Children can be collected from church at 2:30pm. Please see newsletter 6 for further information. Photos of family day will be available to buy after the service.
Monday 23 rd Dec – Friday 3 rd January	Christmas holidays		School closed to children



January 2025			
Wednesday 8 th January	Phonics & early reading session for parents & carers of children in Reception	5:30pm	Please see ParentMail
Thursday 9 th January 2025	Prospective parents tour (for Nursery/Reception Sept 2025)	5:30pm	Please book a place at the school office
Wednesday 15 th January	Deadline for Reception applications to Newcastle City Council	Noon	
	Gosforth Voices	3:45pm-4:45pm	
Tuesday 21 st January	Year 4 visit to El Torero	Lunchtime	More info to follow via ParentMail
Tuesday 22 nd January	Gosforth Band	3:45pm-4:45pm	
Thursday 24 th January	Nursery & Reception cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 4 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Monday 24 th February – Friday 28 th February	February half term holiday		School closed to children
February 2025			
Friday 7 th February	Family Bingo Night	7:00pm.	All welcome. More info to follow from the PTFA.
Friday 21 st February	Staff training day	All day	School closed to children
Tuesday 11 th February	Year 1 walking tour of Gosforth	pm	More info to follow via ParentMail
	Internet safety day		Activities in school
Thursday 13 th February	Film Night	3:15pm	More info will follow from the PTFA
Friday 14 th February	Love is... worship led by Year 1	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend
Friday 28 th February	Deadline for Nursery applications for April intake		
March 2025			
Thursday 6 th March	Years 3 & 4 Magic Flute at The Theatre Royal		More info to follow via ParentMail
	World Book Day		Children invited to come to school dressed as a character from a book, if they wish.
Friday 7 th March	Year 4 Bikeability	am or pm session	More info to follow
Thursday 13 th March	Year 4 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 4 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Friday 14 th March	Red Nose Day		Children invited to wear red and 'do something funny for money'. Donations can be made via ParentMail.
Monday 17 th March	Year 2 visit to Newcastle Castle		More info to follow via ParentMail
17 – 28 th March	Year 4 swimming every afternoon		More info to follow via ParentMail
17-21 st March	STEM Week		Activities in school. If any parents/carers have a career/interest in science, technology or maths, please contact Mrs Egdell.
Wednesday 19 th March	Year 1 visit to Newcastle Mosque		More info to follow via ParentMail



Friday 28 th March	Nursery & Reception Mothering Sunday Service (in school)	9:00am	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
	Years 1 – 4 Mothering Sunday Service at St Nicholas' Church	1:30pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 31 st March	Year 4 children are hosting a Mothering Sunday Cream Team.	pm	More info to follow.
April 2025			
Thursday 3 rd April	Year 3 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 3 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Thursday 3 rd April	Meeting for parents/carers of Year 4 children about the Y4 Multiplication tables Check (in school)	4:30pm	Places can be booked via ParentMail.
Tuesday 8 th April	Stay & Play or parents and carers of children in Reception	2:00pm	
	Meeting for parents/carers of Year 1 children about the Y1 Phonics Screen Check (in school)	5:30pm	Places can be booked via ParentMail.
Wednesday 9 th April	Stay & Play or parents and carers of children in Nursery	2:00pm	
Friday 11 th April	Years 1 – 4 Easter Service at All Saints' Church	1:30pm	Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Monday 14 th – Friday 25 th April	Easter holidays		School closed to children
May 2025			
Thursday 1 st May	Year 2 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 2 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed. Thank you.
Wednesday 14 th May	Year 3 Watersmeet, Hexham	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 15 th May	Year 4 residential at Dukeshouse Wood		Info on ParentMail
Wednesday 21 st May	Year 2 Geography fieldwork – Whitley Bay		More info to follow
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 1 cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Year 1 children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
Friday 23 rd May	GST Daft as a Brush Day		Children invited to wear something "daft" and make a donation via ParentMail.
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th May	Half term holiday		School closed to children
June 2025			
Monday 2 nd June	Staff training day	All day	School closed to children
Friday 6 th June	Pentecost Service		Parents/carers welcome to attend.
Wb 9 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screen Check statutory assessment		Places can be booked via ParentMail
Wb 16 th June	School Sports Week		If any parents/carers have any connections to sports coaches/providers, please let Mrs Francis know.
Tuesday 17 th June	Year 4 Leavers Service at Newcastle Cathedral	am	More info to follow via ParentMail

Thursday 19 th June	Reception class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Reception children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed? Thank you.
Friday 20 th June	Big Gig		More info to follow
Monday 23 rd June	Year 2 visit to Grace Darling Museum	All day	More info to follow
Thursday 26 th June	Year 3 sleepover at school	All day	More info to follow
30 th June – 11 th July	Year 3 swimming every afternoon		More info to follow
July 2024			
Tuesday 8 th July	Year 4 visit to Vindolanda & Roman Army Museum		More info to follow via ParentMail
Thursday 10 th July	Nursery class cake sale	3:15pm	Please could the parents/carers of Nursery children send donations of cakes with ingredients displayed Thank you.
Tuesday 15 th July	Whole school trip to Tynemouth	All day	More info to follow via ParentMail
Friday 18 th July	Year 4 Leavers' Service (at school)	9:15am	Please save the date
Monday 21 st July – Friday 29 th August	Summer holiday		School closed to children

Be courageous; be strong.

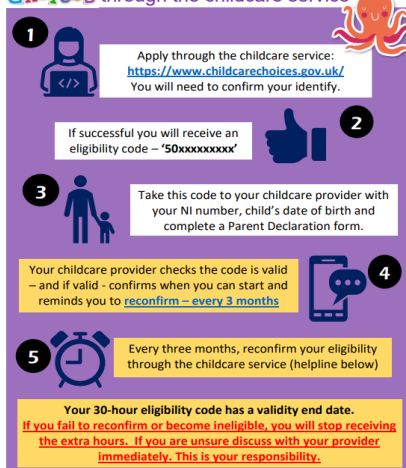
Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NURSERY 30 HOUR PLACES

Childcare Applying for 30 hours free childcare
Choices through the childcare service



- 1** Apply through the childcare service: <https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>
You will need to confirm your identity.
- 2** If successful you will receive an eligibility code – '50xxxxxxx'
- 3** Take this code to your childcare provider with your NI number, child's date of birth and complete a Parent Declaration form.
- 4** Your childcare provider checks the code is valid – and if valid - confirms when you can start and reminds you to **reconfirm – every 3 months**
- 5** Every three months, reconfirm your eligibility through the childcare service (helpline below)

Your 30-hour eligibility code has a validity end date.
If you fail to reconfirm or become ineligible, you will stop receiving the extra hours. If you are unsure discuss with your provider immediately. This is your responsibility.

For support call Customer Interaction Centre on **0300 123 4097** 

HEALTHIER TOGETHER

The Healthier Together website (<https://www.nenc-healthiertogether.nhs.uk>) provides accurate and trusted healthcare advice for parents/carers, young people and professionals in the North East and North Cumbria. You can find parental advice on illnesses, allergies, vaccines, child development as well as many other topics. You can also download the Healthier Together app.

The Healthier Together website also includes the Little Orange Book which provides advice for babies and children when they are poorly.



WRAPAROUND BOOKINGS

Bookings for Wraparound Care are managed by Child Care Bookings for Schools. This will make managing and making bookings far easier for parents and carers. You can still pay using either a debit/credit card or using childcare vouchers.

The URL to access the booking system is <https://archbishop-runcie.cbfs.uk/>
Contact email address: archbishopruncie@childcarebookingsforschools.co.uk
Contact phone number: 01444 523335



COMMUNITY HUB NORTH



Children & Families Newcastle is part of a community network providing activities and services across four localities in the city for babies, children, young people and families. We are part of the North Community Hub. Community hubs link to other buildings in the locality to create a network of venues that offer activities and services.

The community hubs also offer a range of services including – health visiting, family support, community midwifery, mental health support, children's therapies, youth provision, training opportunities, childcare and employability services. To find out what is available near you, telephone your local Community Hub at Fawdon Children's Centre, Cairns Way, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2SN. Telephone 0191 2115773 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

<https://www.newcastlesupportdirectory.org.uk/north>



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING

The school is given £1480 Pupil Premium funding, per eligible child, in order to further strengthen our offer to families. We do this by ensuring these children get additional support in school and by funding events (such as educational visits and other activities) to ensure all children in school have access to equal opportunities.

We would encourage all families to check their eligibility for this funding

https://www.newcastlelea.org/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

If you are unsure or need help, please see Ms Lowe.



UNIFORM LIBRARY & EXCHANGE

We have a pre-loved “Uniform Library” in the main entrance for anyone who needs to borrow, exchange or replace any uniform items. This is not only to help cut costs to families but also aims to have a positive environmental impact by reducing waste and pollution caused by textiles. Please come along and help yourselves. Cash donations can be made to the PTFA at the school office. Thank you.

Donations of outgrown uniform can also be made at the school office. Please ensure items are clean and name labels are removed. Thank you!



UNIFORM
RECYCLING

